

From: Gradyg123@aol.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/13/02 3:00am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

[Text body exceeds maximum size of message body (8192 bytes). It has been converted to attachment.]

Hello,

My comments about the proposed final settlement are simple:

1. The settlement ruling must be properly enforced otherwise it is a complete waste of time.
2. Microsoft Corp. has shown and *continues* to show no reasonable regard for any person, company, product or authority that presents an obstacle to the continued growth of Microsoft. They are the new Mafia.

I offer the following news articles to illustrate my point. Note that eliminating Linux software is ranked second on Microsoft's agenda for 2002, despite the fact that Microsoft has 96.28% of the OS market compared to 2.32% for Apple and .24% for Linux. But Linux has had success with server software and Microsoft also wants to control the internet, so "the spread of Linux" must be prevented.

Ximian Gives Linux a Friendly Face

~
New software package features a graphical interface, but is the company's first product that won't be free.

Matt Berger, IDG News Service
Tuesday, August 28, 2001

Ximian Desktop, the first packaged software product from the Boston-based company, includes a suite of desktop applications and a graphical user interface for Linux PCs.

"We see the biggest opportunity of open source on the desktop in the corporation," says Nat Friedman...

[continues]

<http://www.pcworld.com/news/article/0,aid,59743,tk,dn082801X,00.asp>

Topic: MS Internet Monopoly
Msg #381712
Date: Wed, Aug 29, 2001, 2:11:07 PM

From ZDnet:

"The Burton Group analyst Gary Hein says Microsoft.Net can be summarized in one simple statement: Microsoft is building an Internet monopoly ... Does the very nature of the Internet prevent one company from monopolizing the Internet? In a perfect world, market forces and open standards would prevail. But this isn't a perfect world" Continues:

<http://news.excite.com/news/zd/010829/11/microsoftnet-a-new>

"It's unquestionable that .Net integration will simplify the Internet experience for millions of users. But at what cost? As a society, are we willing to cede control of the Internet to Microsoft for the sake of usability and convenience? Success is far from guaranteed, but Microsoft will do everything in its power to win. Our eternal vigilance is the only barrier between Microsoft and its next monopoly."

<http://www.pcworld.com/news/article/0,aid,59743,tk,dn082801X,00.asp>

Topic: "Software libre!"

Msg #381768

Date: Thu, Aug 30, 2001, 5:34:09 PM

Governments push open-source software

By Paul Festa

Staff Writer, CNET News.com

August 29, 2001, 4:00 a.m. PT

Governments around the world have found a new rallying cry--"Software libre!"--and Microsoft is working overtime to quell it.

A recent global wave of legislation is compelling government agencies, and in some cases government-owned companies, to use open-source or free software unless proprietary software is the only feasible option.

This legal movement, earliest and most pronounced in Brazil, but also showing signs of catching on elsewhere in Latin America, Europe and Asia, is finding ready converts as governments struggle to close sometimes vast digital divides with limited information-technology budgets. So far, there is no evidence that similar legislation is being considered anywhere in the United States, experts said.

Open-source and free software represent a budget-priced alternative to Microsoft's Windows operating system and applications that can cost thousands of dollars a month to license. In addition, access to underlying source code means governments and businesses can fix problems or modify software to work more effectively.

[continues]

http://news.cnet.com/news/0-1003-200-6996393.html?tag=tp_pr

Linux Left Behind: Microsoft, Apple Still Kings of the Desktop

By Remy Davison, Insanely Great Mac

December 19, 2001

Linux may well be capturing more and more of the server market, but it has still failed to make inroads into the desktop market, according to StatMarket statistical data, published by WebSideStory.

StatMarket places Linux's web usage at less than 1% of total internet use. As of December 17, Linux's share of world wide web use was a *mere 0.24%.* StatMarket says that while use of Linux to access the net has fluctuated between 2 and 3% over the past three years, the operating system has not demonstrated real growth in terms of internet usage.

"Linux has made inroads as a server operating system, but not on desktops. Its adoption rate among Web users remains miniscule, even in three years' time."

Linux - More Bark than Bite.

<http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/011219/law037_1.html>

Macintosh OS Global Market Share Less Than 3% for Three Years, But Shows

MTC-00010688_0003

Promise in Some Countries

SAN DIEGO, Jan. 8 /PRNewswire/ -- WebSideStory, Inc. (www.webstory.com), the world's leading provider of outsourced e-business intelligence services, today reported that the global market share for Apple's (Nasdaq: AAPL) Macintosh operating system has remained at less than 3 percent since January 1999, failing to take significant market share from Microsoft. Mac's global usage share as of January 2, 2002, was *2.32 percent*, compared to *Microsoft's 96.28 percent* as of the same date, according to WebSideStory's StatMarket (www.statmarket.com)

New Microsoft Program Rallies Forces To Crush Linux
Enterprise & Partner Group chief to oversee Linux/Unix escalation process
(URL:
<http://www.crn.com/Sections/BreakingNews/breakingnews.asp?ArticleID=32424>)

By Paula Rooney
CRN
Redmond, Wash.
7:12 PM EST Tues., Jan. 08, 2002

Microsoft plans to rally its field sales force and partners to crush Linux--and IBM's efforts with the competitive operating system--in 2002.

According to a Microsoft memo dated in December, the software giant will unveil a "Linux Insiders" program at the company's Envision event in January, an expansion of its existing Linux Competitive Champ Program.

Microsoft also created a new Linux/Unix escalation process that is being headed up by Microsoft Enterprise & Partner Group Vice President Charles Stevens, according to the memo, which was written by Brian Valentine, senior vice president of Windows for Microsoft.

Valentine emphasized that Microsoft will take a more aggressive role in beating Linux--and any vendors that supports it. "I want you to know just how seriously we're taking Linux here in Redmond. ... We have the best d*mn sales force in the world backed by the best engineers in the world--of course we will take any non-Windows OS serious," Valentine wrote. "Linux is out there in some of your accounts and you may not know it. The ground up nature of how Linux is introduced into our accounts means that we need to modify our traditional approaches of finding out about Linux in our customer base. We have to be more hands-on and dig deeper in your accounts."

The Linux/Unix escalation process being headed up by the Enterprise & Partner Group involves getting Microsoft's field sales force and solution providers to tap into the expertise of the Microsoft "Linux Insiders" to advance Windows 2000 and unseat rivals Unix and Linux in the server marketplace.

The "Linux Insiders," a task force of Microsoft experts on Linux that will be unveiled at Envision, will assist the sales force and partners in preventing the spread of Linux--as well as IBM mainframes/Unix servers running Linux--in corporate server centers, according to the memo.

"By building a virtual team of field staff and corporate resources, we will enable the field to have one place to

go for communication and competitive information. The Linux Insiders will have access to a centralized Web site where personnel can request help, route issues and share best practices that the entire field can leverage," Valentine wrote. "If you still need help for Global, Strategic and Major accounts, the Linux/Sun Insiders (or your General Manager) can escalate the issue to the new corporate Linux/Unix Escalation Team. Let me emphasize that you need to work with your local Insider or your GM because they have direct access to this escalation team. The team is committed to provide an initial response within one working day."

Microsoft also intends to commission an independent analysis by DH Brown to attack the perception that Linux is free, the memo said. Another cost analysis comparison case study between Linux and Windows, due in May, will assess a variety of usage scenarios such as Web, file and print.

In the memo, Valentine encourages staffers to snoop around corporate server environments to locate new sightings of Unix and Linux. The software giant apparently is concerned about inroads made by IBM and other Linux backers in the IT segment. "Ask about the 'connector' pieces--you'll potentially find Linux in these areas. This is a great way to not only find out about Linux, but also other IT projects that may include Novell, Sun, Oracle and other competitors," the memo said. "You can expect us to turn up the volume on winning against Linux, as well as IBM."

According to Directions on Microsoft, a Kirkland, Wash.-based newsletter covering the software giant, *Linux ranks second among Microsoft's top 10 challenges for 2002*--next only to engendering trust in the enterprise for security and reliability.

"This free but powerful operating system is hurting Microsoft competitors such as Novell and Sun in the server market, but it could also dampen growth in Microsoft's server software sales," according to the Directions on Microsoft report issued on Jan. 8. "IBM is trying to make Linux a household name. Meanwhile, Microsoft is adding to Linux's appeal with higher licensing fees and product activation technologies designed to prevent unpaid use of Microsoft software."

One systems integrator that sells and services both Linux and Windows said Microsoft's big push against Linux is not a problem in the short term, but could pose a conflict in the future. "This will not affect us in the current market because ... our current revenue with Caldera is on Unix platforms," said Rich Figer, vice president of sales at S.B. Stone & Company, Cleveland. "In the future, however, when Linux and Unix become closer to one product we could find ourselves in competition with Microsoft operating systems. Most of the Unix/Linux market is highly driven by application vendors. If application vendors choose not to develop on Linux that would be a much bigger problem. If Microsoft puts their energy in to alienating application vendors from Linux it would cause problems."

S.B. Stone, for instance, does 25 percent to 30 percent of its business with Caldera on Unix platforms, but Microsoft represents the rest of its business.

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Topic: M\$ rigging votes again
Msg #389420
Date: Thu, Jan 10, 2002, 6:47:00 PM

Sinking to new depths of desperation in its war against Java, Microsoft has been caught stuffing ballots during an online vote concerning web services.

<http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/4/23612.html>
<http://news.zdnet.co.uk/story/0,,t269-s2102244,00.html>

The vote, run by ZDNet UK was to see which technology enterprises were planning to use, to deploy web services.

Java was the clearly winning, having amassed two thirds of the votes.

However, the chaps at ZDNet became a little suspicious by the complete reversal in statistics a week later ... MS .NET was the clear winner!

A quick look at the server logs revealed an unprecedented number of votes, originating from the same people within the Microsoft's domain.

One person had even voted 228 times

They also found evidence that automated scripts, executing from servers within Microsoft, were being used to rig the vote.

Microsoft's lack of honesty in attempting to carry out such an act, is only matched by the stupid, hamfisted way they executed it.

Topic: Ric Riot: 5,000 songs
Msg #389401
Date: Thu, Jan 10, 2002, 1:36:01 PM

Alan:

> What WERE they thinking?!

They were thinking, probably correctly, that their largest audience, PC-users, don't have FireWire. So why bother adding it given the "cost" and "complexity" of an Oxford 911.

Even so, it's a USB 1.1 device, not even 2.0, which is strange.

This year, all the local employees of the company I work for were offered a sweetener when buying a new PC through the company; the cost was deducted from your gross salary, so your benefit is that you pay less income tax (i.e. if your highest band is 42%, you really pay only 58% of the computer's cost). Brand-spanking new with XP. FireWire was not an option. (Obviously, neither were Macs)

Note: This particular person does not live in the U.S. and therefore is not subject to U.S. tax laws.

2. Unless otherwise provided in the revised proposed Final Judgment, Microsoft shall begin complying with the revised proposed Final Judgment as it was in full force and effect starting on December 16, 2001.

1. Microsoft shall not retaliate against any ISV or IHV because of that ISV's or IHV's:

a. developing, using, distributing, promoting or supporting any software that competes with Microsoft Platform Software or any software that runs on any software that competes with Microsoft Platform Software,

I. "ISV" means an entity other than Microsoft that is engaged in the development or marketing of software products.

Thank you for your time.

Gerald W. "Grady" Goodwin, concerned citizen